

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, April 14, 2013

Passage: Romans 6:19-23

Memory Passage: Review Romans 6:16

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Rom. 6:15-23.** Summarize what you learned last week in your study of vs. 15-18.
- (b) How has your application from last Friday's question led to a greater sanctification for you over the weekend? In case you have forgotten, here was the assignment: "Think back on the last week of your life and remember any time that you either sinned because you were pragmatically acting as though you did not need to obey God's commands ("not under the law") or because you were pragmatically acting as though sin did not matter to God because He is a God of grace ("but under grace"). Write down at least three ways you can combat these temptations the next time they arise so that you "present your members to God for righteousness" rather than present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness."
- (c) What does Paul mean by the phrases, "I am speaking in human terms," and "natural limitations" (lit. "weakness of your flesh" v. 19)? Is this a comment on the Romans' spiritual condition? Human condition? Something else? How do you know?
- (d) *Family:* **Read Rom. 6:19.** Ask, "Remind me again: What are our 'members?'" (You learned this last week: our members are our bodies as they exist now, in this realm, including our flesh, our thoughts, our emotions, our motives, etc. [see v. 12].) Ask, "What is Paul telling us when he uses the phrases, 'just as you once' & 'so now?'" (The Romans were once living one way but now they are to live another way) On your white board make 2 columns with the headings, "Old Life" & "New Life," and ask, "What has changed for the Romans in order to take them from the old to the new?" This will give you a chance to review what they remember about 6:1-11. Help them remember what has taken place to facilitate the change from old to new. Save your column headings for tomorrow, and let everyone know you will be talking about these 2 paths during this week.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Rom. 6:19-23.** When did the Romans present their members as slaves to impurity and lawlessness ("just as you once"), and is this a different presentation than the commands to not present their bodies and members to sin (vs. 13, 16, 17)?
- (b) How does being a slave to lawlessness lead to more lawlessness? Give a couple of examples from your own life where presenting your members to impurity and lawlessness led to more lawlessness.
- (c) Write down a definition of sanctification. How does presenting your members as slaves to righteousness lead to sanctification? Is this (19b) a command, promise, or both? Why is this truth important to believers?
- (d) Take a moment and identify the conjunctions in vs. 19-23. What do these powerful little words instruct you concerning the flow of Paul's argument? (Don't miss the "for" that begins the second thought of v. 19!)
- (e) *Family:* Return to your white board with the two columns you made last night. Have your family **Read Rom. 6:19-23** and identify each characteristic associated with the Old Life and each one associated with the New Life (e.g. old life = slaves to impurity & lawlessness leading to more lawlessness leading to shameful fruit leading to death). Trace out an example of each life, from start to finish, using an example like "speech" or "obeying authority" to illustrate the path for each.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Rom. 6:19-23.** How are those who are enslaved to sin "free in regard to righteousness?" Since Paul is talking about the Romans' old life ("when you were slaves of sin"), the implication is that they are now *not* free in regard to righteousness. What does this mean for a believer if he/she is not free in regard to righteousness?
- (b) **Read Rom. 1:13, 15:28, 1 Cor. 9:7, Gal. 5:22, Eph. 5:9, Phil. 1:11, 22, 4:17, & 2 Tim. 2:6.** The Greek word for "fruit" can be used in a negative way (i.e. Matt. 7:16), but these verses contain Paul's every use of this word. FYI: Some of the verses translate the word with a different English word (i.e. Rom 1:13 is "harvest," 15:28 is "what has been collected," 2 Tim. 2:6 is "crops"). Does Paul ever use this word in a negative sense? How does this help you understand his usage in 6:22?
- (c) To what "things" does Paul refer that brought the Romans shame? Is his point that they produced bad fruit or no fruit? Why do these things lead to death, and what does this fruit (or lack thereof) prove about the Roman's former spiritual lives?
- (d) *Family:* Prior to the lesson, round up 2 pieces of fruit: one perfectly ripe and desirable and one rotten and not desirable. Then ask, "Which piece of fruit would you like to eat and why?" Let the discussion take its course, and then ask, "What other ways can we use the word, 'fruit?'" (fruit of our labor, fruit of our lives, fruit of a crop, fruit of our character, etc.) Then **Read Rom. 6:21-22** and explain that Paul always uses the term "fruit" to refer to "good fruit" and never "bad fruit" (whether metaphorically or not). Explain that Paul is saying that the Romans' Old Life never produced good fruit, but the New Life does. Remind them of the 2 paths you outlined last night and ask them to point to the fruit each one produced.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

- (a) **Read 6:19-23.** What is the fruit believers get that leads to sanctification? What is the reason Paul gives for this fruit being produced? How does eternal life become the end of sanctification?
- (b) Compare the description of the Old Life in v. 21 with the description of the New Life in v. 22. What differences do you find? What similarities? Is there a 3rd way, or are these the only 2 paths for a person to follow?
- (c) According to v. 22, is there a way that leads to eternal life that does not include sanctification? Of what significance is this fact? Should this fact be an encouragement to a believer or a threat? Why? What does this fact say to a professing believer who is not being sanctified in their life? How does this fact encourage you in your daily fight to crucify sin?
- (d) *Family:* **Read Rom. 6:19-23.** Ask, “How many different paths does Paul present to us?” (2) “Are there any other possible paths human beings can walk?” (No) Use this lesson to present the gospel to your family and challenge them to evaluate their lives to see which path they are on. Then pray aloud on behalf of your family for God to remove any blindness, reveal any needs for a savior, grant repentance & faith, and that He would cause any member of your family who is currently alive to sin and dead to God to become dead to sin and alive to God.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

- (a) **Read Rom. 6:19-23.** Paul continues his slave/master imagery in v. 23 by using the term “wages,” which was a rare term used to refer to wages paid by a slave master. You have undoubtedly memorized this verse at some time in your life, but take a moment now to explain it in its full context as the last verse of chapters 5 & 6.
- (b) What is the difference between “wages” and “free gift” and why is this difference so important? How does 6:23 connect with chapter 5:11-21?
- (c) Explain in detail why it would be an impossibility for a person to be his/her own master rather than enslaved to sin, the sin master or enslaved to God. Now explain how you might use this fact to help a non-believer know their need for Christ.
- (d) Make 2 columns on a piece of paper, and as you re-read 6:15-23, record all of the indicatives you find in one column the imperatives in the other. Spend some time in prayer thanking God for all of the work He has accomplished through His Son Jesus to provide you with the ability to serve Him for righteousness leading to your sanctification that ends in eternal life.
- (e) *Family:* Lead your family through (a) – (d) above.

DATE: April 14, 2013**PASSAGE: Romans 6:19-23*****True Freedom***

In Romans 6:19-23 Paul contrasts 2 paths upon which all of humanity walks, and commands believers to act in ways that reflect the path upon which they have been placed.